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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/082,498	02/22/2002	Robert Fransdonk	2059.007US1	3732

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EXAMINER

WINTER, JOHN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Andre Marais on February 9, 2008.

Claim 15

The method according to claim ~~14~~ 4, wherein said transmitting further comprises transmitting said session content key encrypted with said transport key to said decoder.

Claim 30

The apparatus according to claim ~~29~~ 4, further comprising means for transmitting said session content key encrypted with said transport key to said decoder.

Claim 45

The apparatus according to claim 44 4, wherein said secure device further transmits said session content key encrypted with said transport key to said decoder.

Response to Arguments

The Applicant's arguments filed on June 13, 2007 have been fully considered.

As per claims 1-13, 15-28, 30-43 and 45 the Examiner agrees that limitations of claims 4-20 are not disclosed in any prior art references.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-13, 15-28, 30-43 and 45 are allowed over the prior art record.

The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record Narasimhalu et al. (US Patent 5,499,298) teaches controlled dissemination of digital information.

None of the art of record, taken individually or combination disclose at least the steps/components of: transmitting a license from a server to a secure device for storage, the license containing a product key of a watercrypted content and a client identifier; transmitting via an electronic network an entitlement control message containing a plurality of content keys associated with said watercrypted content to said secure device; transmitting a request to provide a session content key from said plurality of content keys, said session content key encrypted at said secure device using a transport key encrypted with a public key associated with said server, and said session content key being to-be used to decrypt said watercrypted content; and receiving said session content key from said secure device in response to said request.

Even if the features missing from the above cited prior art were found in a reasonable number of references a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would not have been motivated to combine these reference because the feature of “watercrypting” is unrelated to key management and would have to be disclosed by references unrelated to key management.

The Examiner notes that the following definition of the term “watercrypting” as defined in the Applicants specification has been relied.

“In the following description, "watercrypting" or "watercrypt" refer to the process of duplicating content and adding a first watermark identifier to a first piece of duplicated content and a second watermark identifier to a second piece of duplicated content for distribution to a client. Watercrypting also refers to the process of encrypting the duplicated content with unique keys and generating ECMs to distribute securely the unique keys such that unique keys are tied to unique watermark identifiers. “

Claims 1, 11, 16, 26, 31, 32 and 33 are allowable for the above cited reasons.

Claims 2-10,12-13,15,17-25, 27-28, 30, 34-43 and 45 are dependant upon claims 1, 11, 16, 26, 31, 32 and 33 respectively and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN M. WINTER whose telephone number is (571)272-6713. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6, 1st Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Fischer can be reached on (571) 272-6779. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ANDREW J. FISCHER/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3621

John Winter
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 3/17/08
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